November Newsletter

ISSUE #7

Hello There!

Welcome back to the best McConnell-based newsletter ever published! Anyways, what have I been up to? The biggest thing that's happened since last was Thanksgiving. I decided to take it off this year which was nice as I realized I hadn't been in 4 years. The fried turkey was just as good as I remembered, and there's always a sense of nostalgia in going to the same Thanksgiving for probably the 18th time. Seeing what your cousins are doing, who new is showing up, and recalling the various habits and mannerisms of your greater family really gets you in the season. Sadly, this year requires that I work Christmas which is a bit of a bummer, but the price to pay for Thanksgiving. You also make a decent chunk of change working the holidays, and there are fewer calls cause it turns out people aren't thinking much about their property tax on Christmas. Also, it's finally winter. Apparently, Boston has been having its coldest December in record, but it hasn't been horrible, coldest day was around 24 degrees. Honestly, I don't think I'll ever complain about the cold again since moving from Minnesota. Gone are the days where my nose hairs and eyes would begin to turn solid after only a few minutes outside. As you can tell, I haven't really been up to much interesting. I had a plan with my beautiful coworker Nathaniel to get hot pot this past Wednesday, but he ended up slipping a disc or something similar which put him out of commission and thankfully he seems to be doing better now. What I do have are a decent amount of things to look forward to. Despite what was said originally, I do have the feast of the seven fishes with my family as Christmas Eve falls within my days off this year. Along with this, I have two friends that are coming to visit soon. One being my friend Veronica from Peace Corps who was also half Latino and went to college in the Twin Cities. Come New Year I get to host long time friend of the newsletter Joshua Groven for one (1) day, but we will also see each other more than that god willing.

Routine

I always struggle on whether I call myself a creature of habit. Normally, I like to say I'm spontaneous guy but also I have patterns I like to stick to. Normally when I work remote I stay up until around 3 the day before. But now on Thursdays I've been making myself wake up early to go get the goodie bag in Jamaica Plain, and also grab some sort of fancy coffee. It's nice to start the work week with a little treat to yourself, almost makes you feel like you've on your third day of the weekend. While unique circumstances can provide new perspectives, there is a comfort in the familiar as well

Categorizing

As you'll see on the next page, I've been doing some more digital categorization for movies I want to watch, to plot hooks I randomly come across. I used to just tell myself I'd remember them, but I think putting it all down is definitely the right move. It also helps sort up the digital clutter that I have, for example cutting down the egregious amounts of tabs that I have on my phone. Also, when you put the info in spreadsheets or similar application it gets a lot easier to manipulate the data to find out new, wonderful things

iPod Classic Wrap

I finally decided to delete Spotify, I'm still enjoying premium until the 12th. Considering the AI artists and ICE ads I decided to put my money where my mouth is. All of this is to say I've started to use my iPod more in order to be even more pretentious. The iPod stores the play count of songs, and you can export the information. I decided to make my own Wrapped to see what I was listening to. Generally, I download whole albums and try to listen to them all the way though, but I will also listen to individual songs or two in a row. This data is a bit skewed as I have owned and been listening to music on the iPod before last year, but I began using it much more in the past months. However, tragedy struck at some point as I realized I didn't grab the info for most of the songs with 5 or fewer listens, so while I have the top performances this is generally what my music looked like. I did wipe the iPod so next year I'll have the exact information. I really enjoyed the process of combing through all the information myself, it made me feel a lot more connected to the process and results. It was more or less what I thought it would be, yet again Sidney Gish tops my chart. There is a large amount of music that I've been listening to but didn't make it, and I also plan to start tracking monthly trends cause I enjoyed it so much. There is something that every piece of physical media has special or unique, but I will say it's nice to be able to easily interface with your device and put a huge amount of music on it.

Song Length	# of Times Playe	Total listening			TOP 5			
0:04:10	7	0:29:10			Sidney Gish		(Incomplete) Rankings	
0:03:09	7	0:22:03			Arctic Monkeys	#1	Sidney Gish	9:32:12
0:03:42	7	0:25:54			Billy Joel	#2	Arctic Monkeys	7:37:32
0:02:56	7	0:20:32			TacocaT	#3	Billy Joel	3:39:52
0:04:46	6	0:28:36	Total hours-		Radiohead	#4	TacocaT	3:06:23
0:05:01	6	0:30:06	2:36:21			#5	Radiohead	3:02:12
0:02:04	5	0:10:20				#6	Neutral Milk Hotel	2:53:30
0:02:55	5	0:14:35				#7	Alanis Morissette	2:36:21
0:03:05	5	0:15:25				#8	The Beths	2:16:51
0:03:26	5	0:17:10	Total hours-			#9	Masayoshi Takanaka	2:16:27
0:02:10	5	0:10:50	1:08:20			#10	Crumb	2:13:59
0:05:28	14	1:16:32				#11	Japanese Breakfast	2:01:09
0:05:55	12	1:11:00				#12	They Might Be Giants	1:12:54
0:03:29	12	0:41:48				#13	Alvvways	1:08:20
0:02:38	12	0:26:00				#14	Mustard Service	0:53:38
0:03:00	12	0:36:00				#15	Wet Leg	0:22:03
0:03:51	11	0:42:21				#16	Geordie Greep	0:42:28
0:02:54	11	0:31:54						
0:03:06	10	0:31:00						

Per the last sentence in the text box above, I've dipped my toes in various physical media. Cassettes were the first and probably have the most enjoyable aspect of being physical, but I have been finding myself buying more CDs as of late, While a large amount of bands have released cassettes (and they're easy to record onto blank ones), it's an almost triple obsolete format from CDs to MP3s to our phones. CD shelves are always overflowing at second hand sales, and as CDs weren't able to be burned for awhile many more artists published music on them and many more were bought. My favorite "group" of CDs I've bought have been through the Smithsonian Folkways. They have a collection of American heritage music from bluegrass to "industrial worker ballads"